



For Immediate Assistance On Election Day

- U** **FIRST:** contact your city, township or county clerk's office and ask them to help you resolve the problem. If you do not know how to contact your clerk, visit: <http://www.sospublius.org> or call the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 and ask for the phone number to your city, township or county clerk's office.
- U** **SECOND:** contact the Election Protection Coalition at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) or visit <http://www.ep365.org> and request assistance with resolving your issue.
- U** **THIRD:** contact the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973. If your local clerk's office is unwilling or unable to resolve the issue, call the Michigan Bureau of Elections and ask them to help you resolve the problem.

For immediate assistance related to problems voting in the Detroit area you may also contact the Detroit Branch of the NAACP at: (313) 871-2087.



To File A Written Complaint After The Election

- U** Contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 1-800-482-3604, or visit the website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>
- U** Contact the U.S. Dept. of Justice - Voting Section at 1-800-253-3931, or visit the website <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting>
- U** Contact the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/sos>



Voting Is Not Just A Right, It's A Responsibility!!!

State of Michigan
Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor

Michigan Civil Rights Commission
Mark J. Bernstein, J.D., Chair
Mohammed Abdrabboh, J.D., Vice-Chair
Dr. Tarun K. Sharma
Kelvin W. Scott, J.D.
Matthew Wesaw
Karen Henry-Stokes
J. Michael Zelley

Michigan Department of Civil Rights
Linda V. Parker, Director



Michigan Department of Civil Rights
Lansing Executive Office
Capital Tower Building
110 W. Michigan Ave, Suite 900
Lansing, MI 48933

Detroit Executive Office
Cadillac Place
3054 West Grand Boulevard, Suite 3-600
Detroit, MI 48202

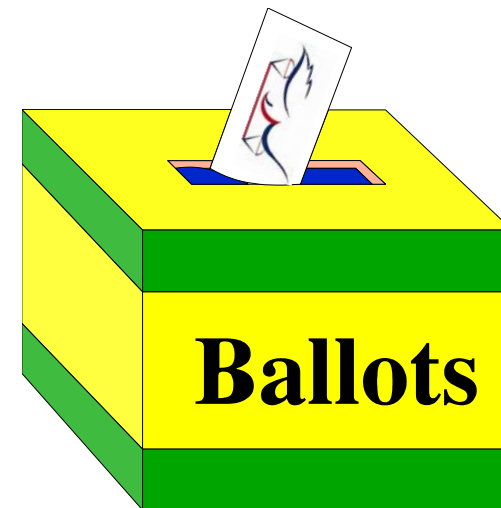
For more information:
1-800-482-3604 or <http://www.mi.gov/mdcr>
TTY: (877) 878-8464

Michigan Department of Civil Rights



VOTING

*What you should know
for 2006*



*Be An Informed Voter!
Know Your Rights*



Frequently Asked Voting Questions

Do I have to show identification before I can vote?

- U** You must show identification **only if**, (1) you registered to vote by mail; and (2) you have never voted in Michigan, i.e. you are a first-time voter.
- U** Examples of valid identification (ID) include: (1) any state driver's license with photo or personal ID card with photo; (2) student ID card with photo; (3) military ID card with photo; (4) employee ID with photo; (5) credit or automated teller card with photo; or (6) passport, or government issued photo ID card.
- U** **First-time voters** must appear in person to vote the first time, **unless**: (1) you hand delivered your registration form; (2) you are over 60 years of age; (3) you are disabled; or (4) you are eligible under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

What if my name does not appear on the local clerk's list of registered voters?

- U** **Yes you can vote.** Ask for a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot allows you to fill out a ballot and have the county, township or city clerk determine within 6 days whether your ballot can be counted. To ensure that your ballot is counted, you must provide identification to your city, county or township clerk no later than the sixth calendar day after the election.

I received an absentee ballot, but I want to vote in person; can I?

- U** **Yes.** If possible, bring your absentee ballot with you to the polling place. If you don't have your absentee ballot, you still may vote. With or without your absentee ballot, you will be asked to complete an affidavit stating that you received an absentee ballot but did not vote using your absentee ballot.



Myths and Facts about Voting

MYTH

FACT

If you are awaiting a trial, you are not allowed to vote.	In the state of Michigan, if you are in jail awaiting arraignment or trial, you are eligible to obtain an absentee ballot.
If you have served time in jail in the state of Michigan, you forfeit all voting rights.	Michigan allows an individual to vote even if they have been convicted in state or federal court, unless the person is currently incarcerated.
Only English - speaking citizens are qualified to vote.	The Voting Rights Act requires particular polling locations to print ballots and other election materials in languages other than English, and have oral translation help available at polls, where the need exists.
You must finish high school to be eligible to vote in Michigan.	You are eligible to vote if you are: U At least 18 years of age U Not presently incarcerated U A Michigan resident/ citizen of the United States U Registered to vote
I need to show my voter registration card in order to vote.	As long as you are registered, you do not need to present a voter registration card in order to vote.
If you are a person with a disability, you may not have someone else read the ballot and record your vote for you.	Michigan law entitles persons with disabilities to reasonable accommodations to enable them to vote, which may include having someone read the ballot. You cannot be denied access to a polling place because of a disability.



Pay Close Attention When You Hear This...

"We are investigating voting irregularities. I need to ask you a few questions before I can let you vote."

"I can't let you vote because your name does not appear on our lists."

"Even if you have voted in Michigan before, you must provide two forms of identification before voting."

"I'm sorry, the voting office is closed for a break."

"Did you move since the last election? We don't have your name, so you have to go back to wherever you voted last time."

"Do you have a criminal record or any outstanding warrants?"

"Are you currently in bankruptcy, owe child support or have any outstanding debts that might have been referred to a collection agency?"

"I'm sorry, we don't have the equipment to accommodate your disability, I'm afraid you cannot vote today."

"One of our officials will have to accompany you into the voting booth."

"The voting equipment is down right now, maybe you should come back later on."

"You are not able to redo your ballot if you make a mistake."

"Who will you be voting for today?"

If you hear these statements immediately consult the organizations on the back of this brochure!!!



About the Michigan Department of Civil Rights

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) was established in 1965 to secure the full enjoyment of civil rights guaranteed by law and the State Constitution through the elimination of unlawful discrimination.

MDCR has both jurisdiction and interest in preserving the right of all citizens to participate equally in the voting process regardless of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or disability.